

The problem with the standards under consideration is that they punish law-abiding citizens exercising their fair use rights. Criminals who wish to bootleg digital programming will find a way to do so quickly regardless of what security technology is mandated. One need only look to the music industry to see this truth. Recently, the first CD with a new kind of copy protection technology was released to the public. Within a day, that CD was being shared on the internet in digital form. It was found that anyone with a reasonable level of technical aptitude could easily bypass the copy protection.

With HDTV, the problem is even worse, especially for early adopters, who paid hundreds or even thousands of dollars for their HDTV sets. Implementation of this new standard will render most current HDTV sets obsolete. This will seriously undermine consumer confidence in HDTV since no one will know when the government will mandate additional standards rendering more set obsolete. This will delay widespread acceptance even longer.

I hope you will consider these points and choose NOT to enact these new standards. Thank you.